

From: Greg Hanson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am against the proposed settlement for Microsoft. I believe this settlement will not bring any harm to, or even slow down Microsoft. Microsoft has an illegal monopoly that should be punished for what it has done.

Some of Microsoft's biggest competitors are not-for-profit companies. The number one competitor of Microsoft's Internet Information Services is the Apache web server, run by the Apache Foundation, a non-profit organization. A large reason that businesses these days are changing to Linux is because of its interoperability with Microsoft products. Samba interfaces with networked computers running Windows. Wine runs software made for Windows in Linux. If Microsoft is allowed this settlement, they can use their monopolistic powers to crush Samba and Wine, making Linux look much less appealing to businesses. The non-profit companies, such as Samba and Wine, need to be able to access Windows source code in order to be able to interface properly. Without the obligation to publish source code, Microsoft will change enough code with every release to crush these companies.

These free open-source projects are the future of software. This settlement is not enough. All companies, commercial or not, need to have access to Microsoft source code and protocols. Free software is a competitor to Microsoft, but will soon be dead if the proposed settlement goes through.

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